

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

## Draft Ozone Exceptional Event Demonstration

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. The public hearing will be held using teleconferencing, which allows for both a video and voice over internet protocol (VOIP) connection: weblink: <https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=m6a400fe7f0773febb05fbc2b0612e46d> and telephone line connection: call-in number: +1-202-860-2110 Access code: 180 802 9190

This hearing and public comment period provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on a draft demonstration by the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) of an exceptional event for ambient ozone air quality data in the District during 2020 while the Covid-19 health emergency was in effect from March 11 to December 31. Once the demonstration is finalized, it will be submitted to EPA for approval.

The EPA designated the District as a Marginal Nonattainment Area for the 2015 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) after promulgation of the revised standards established at 0.070 parts per million (ppm), effective on August 3, 2018 (83 Fed. Reg. 25776, June 4, 2018). Compliance must be determined by EPA using data monitored until August 3, 2021.

DOEE found, as outlined in the analysis presented in the exceptional event demonstration, that ozone reductions in 2020 were not due to permanent and enforceable controls, but due to unique traffic congestion that was directly the result of the Covid-19 public health emergency. DOEE found that the ozone levels caused by the Covid-19 health emergency were caused by a natural phenomenon (the zoonotic transfer of the virus) and therefore are not anticipated to reoccur in the future. Thus, DOEE finds that ozone data from March 16, the day the District of Columbia Government began modifying its operations, to December 31, 2021, should be excluded from comparison against the ozone NAAQS and other relevant policy making by EPA.

DOEE is seeking public comments on the draft exceptional event demonstration. Copies of the proposed demonstration are available for public review on DOEE's website at: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/exceptional-event-demonstration-2020-ozone-levels>.

Interested parties wishing to testify at this hearing should submit, in writing, their name, address, telephone number and affiliation to Air Quality Division (AQD), Department of Energy and Environment at the address: 1200 First Street, NE, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20002, or email Mr. Joseph Jakuta at [joseph.jakuta@dc.gov](mailto:joseph.jakuta@dc.gov) by 4:00 p.m. on September 20, 2021. Interested parties may also submit written comments to AQD's Air Quality Planning Branch at the same address or by email to Mr. Joseph Jakuta at [joseph.jakuta@dc.gov](mailto:joseph.jakuta@dc.gov). Questions can be directed to Mr. Joseph Jakuta at [joseph.jakuta@dc.gov](mailto:joseph.jakuta@dc.gov) or by phone at 202-669-5817. No comments will be accepted after September 20, 2021.